



Legislative
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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 20-0057	Date:	February 10, 2020
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Mullica; Larson Sen. Bridges; Priola	Bill Status:	House Health & Insurance
		Fiscal Analyst:	Anna Gerstle 303-866-4375 Anna.Gerstle@state.co.us

Bill Topic: **NICOTINE PRODUCT REGULATION**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill provides for the statewide licensing and regulation of cigarette, tobacco, and nicotine product retailers. The bill increases state revenue and expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary:

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires an appropriation of \$55,847 to the Department of Revenue.

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$2.7 million to the Department of Revenue.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1001

		FY 2019-20 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue	General Fund	-	\$76,800	\$84,480
	Cash Funds	-	\$3,822,000	\$2,200,200
	Total	-	\$3,898,800	\$2,284,680
Expenditures	Cash Funds	\$55,847	\$2,663,809	\$2,851,807
	Total	\$55,847	\$2,663,809	\$2,851,807
	Total FTE	0.5 FTE	21.5 FTE	24.6 FTE
Transfers		-	-	-
TABOR Refund	General Fund	-	\$3,898,800	\$2,284,680

Summary of Legislation

The bill provides for statewide licensing and regulation of cigarettes, tobacco products, and nicotine products.

Minimum purchase age. The bill raises the minimum age to purchase cigarettes, tobacco products, and nicotine products from 18 years old to 21 years old. It removes the current class 2 petty offense for underage purchase and prohibits a retailer from allowing a person under the age of 18 to sell cigarettes, tobacco products, or nicotine.

Licensing. Beginning July 1, 2021, a retailer is prohibited from selling cigarettes, tobacco, or nicotine products without a state-issued license. Each retail location must be licensed, and licenses are valid for one year and are not transferrable. Retailers that sell such products and have applied for a license before to July 1, 2021 may continue to sell products until the review of their application is complete.

The Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) in the Department of Revenue (DOR) must promulgate rules related to licensing and enforcement, including setting fee amounts to cover the cost of the licensing program. Fee revenue is deposited in the LED Cash Fund. The bill sets time frames for approval or denial of a license application, procedures for a hearing if the application is denied, and allows LED to establish a process for an owner of multiple locations to apply simultaneously for multiple licenses.

Enforcement. Current law requires that the LED conduct the minimum number of inspections of businesses that sell cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products required under federal law. The bill requires that LED conduct at least two compliance checks at each retail location annually, or the federal minimum, whichever is greater. If a compliance check results in a violation, either LED or the local licensing authority must conduct an additional check within three to six months of the initial compliance check. If a local authority suspends or revokes a license, the LED must suspend or revoke the state license. LED must maintain and post online a list of licensed retailers.

Local regulation. The bill prohibits cities and counties from setting a minimum age to purchase cigarettes, tobacco and nicotine products below 21 years old, and states that any local government licensing requirement may be more stringent than state licensing. If a retailer is located in a jurisdiction with a local licensing requirement, the local license must be obtained prior to the issuance or renewal of a state license.

License restrictions. LED may not approve a state license for a new retail location that is located within 500 feet of a school. Local licensing authorities may eliminate types of schools from the distance restrictions or adopt shorter distance restrictions.

Retailer restrictions. Retailers may not advertise electronic smoking device product in a manner that is visible from outside the retail location. The bill specifies that only licensed retailers, wholesalers, or distributors may receive a shipment or delivery of cigarettes, tobacco, or nicotine products directly to a consumer in the state. These products may be sold online, so long as the customer picks up the products at the retail location.

Fines and violations. The bill allows LED to apply for an injunction to prohibit a person from violating state tobacco regulations, and may suspend or revoke a retailer's state license after an investigation and public hearing. The bill establishes a new fine schedule for violations related to selling products to a minor, and a list of civil fines for sale of cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products without a state license, or violating advertisement and online sale restrictions.

In addition, the bill modifies that time frame in which second or subsequent violation result in higher fines from 24 to 36 months, eliminates an affirmative defense for violations, and removes offenses related to sale of products to under the age of 21 from juvenile courts.

Background

Minimum purchase age. Colorado law prohibits retailers of cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products from certain activities, including selling to a minor under the age of 18; however, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act was amended in December 2019 to raise the federal minimum age of sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21 years old. The change applies to cigarettes, cigars, and e-cigarettes. As a result, it is currently illegal for a retailer to sell any tobacco product to someone under 21 and the bill aligns state law with the change to federal law.

Assumptions

The fiscal note assumes that there about 6,000 retailers in Colorado that will obtain a license in FY 2020-21, and the number of retailers will grow by about 10 percent per year, for a total of 6,600 licenses in FY 2021-22. In addition, the fiscal note assumes that work implementing the licensing and enforcement changes will begin in the current FY 2019-20, and that the required compliance checks will begin in FY 2020-21.

Comparable Crime

The bill removes the current class 2 petty offense for the purchase of cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products by a minor. There are about 15 cases filed per year; as a result, this analysis assumes that there will be a minimal impact on civil and criminal case filings. As a result, any decrease of fines and court fees and related TABOR impact is expected to be minimal. Similarly, potential workload decreases for the Judicial Department, the Division of Probation, and agencies that provide representation to indigent persons require no change in appropriations, and the impact on local courts and district attorneys is expected to be minimal. As a result, the fiscal note does not further discuss impacts of the bill on the criminal justice system.

State Revenue

The bill increases state revenue by at least \$3.9 million in FY 2020-21 and at least \$2.3 million in FY 2021-22. This revenue is from fees and fines. Fee revenue is deposited in the LED Cash Fund and fine revenue is deposited in either the Cigarette, Tobacco Product, and Nicotine Product Use By Minors Cash Fund or the General Fund.

Fee impact on retailers. Colorado law requires legislative service agency review of measures which create or increase any fee collected by a state agency. These fee amounts are estimates only, actual fees will be set administratively by Department of Revenue based on cash fund balance, estimated program costs, and the estimated number of licenses subject to the fee. The table below identifies the fee impact of this bill, estimated to cover costs over a two-year period.

Table 2
Fee Impact on Cigarette, Tobacco, and Nicotine Product Retailers

Fiscal Year	Type of Fee	Estimated Fee	Number Affected	Total Fee Impact
FY 2020-21	Application Fee	\$597	6,000	\$3,582,000
FY 2020-21 Total				\$3,582,000
FY 2020-21	Application Fee	\$597	600	\$358,200
	Renewal Fee	\$263	6,000	\$1,578,000
FY 2021-22 Total				\$1,936,200

Fine revenue. The bill increases fine revenue to the Cigarette, Tobacco Product, and Nicotine Product Use By Minors Cash Fund from violations related to selling products to a minor. Currently, about 8 percent of compliance checks result in a violation. Based on the minimum fine amount of \$250, the bill will increase revenue by at least \$240,000 in FY 2020-21 and \$264,000 in FY 2021-22. For violations of selling product in individual or small quantities, the fiscal note assumes that by only changing the time frame in which multiple violations result in higher fines, the bill will impact fine revenue by a minimal amount.

The fiscal note assumes that the equivalent of 8 percent of failed compliance checks will result in a fine for selling licensing, advertising, and online sale violations. Based on the minimum fine amount of \$1,000, this will increase revenue to the General Fund by at least \$76,800 in FY 2021-22, and \$84,480 in FY 2021-22.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the DOR by \$55,847 and 0.5 FTE in the current FY 2019-20, \$2.7 million and 21.5 FTE in FY 2020-21, and \$2.9 million and 24.6 FTE in FY 2021-22. Expenditures are from the LED Cash Fund, and are listed in Table 3 and discussed below.

**Table 3
Expenditures Under HB 20-1001**

	FY 2019-20 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Department of Revenue			
Personal Services	\$26,139	\$1,433,132	\$1,586,133
Operating Expenses	\$675	\$27,540	\$30,645
Capital Outlay Costs	\$18,600	\$107,880	\$12,400
Legal Services	-	\$205,205	\$356,577
Fleet Costs	-	\$200,430	\$212,220
Equipment Costs	-	\$98,209	\$17,766
Computer Programming	-	\$6,300	-
Compensation to Minors	-	\$126,279	\$126,279
Leased Space	\$3,300	\$134,640	\$149,820
Employee Benefits and Supp. Retirement Payments*	\$7,133	\$324,194	\$359,967
FTE – Personal Services	0.5 FTE	20.4 FTE	22.7 FTE
FTE – Legal Services	-	1.1 FTE	1.9 FTE
Total Cost	\$55,847	\$2,663,809	\$2,851,807
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	21.5 FTE	24.6 FTE

* Because this bill requires over 20 FTE, certain costs that are typically centrally appropriated are appropriated directly in the bill instead of through the annual budget process. These include health, life, and dental benefits; short-term disability benefits; and supplemental retirement payments.

Department of Revenue. The bill increases costs in the LED to implement and enforce the bill. These costs are discussed below.

Personal services. In the current FY 2019-20, DOR requires 0.5 FTE to begin rulemaking, hiring, and implement the provisions in the bill. In FY 2020-21, DOR requires 20.4 FTE to issue licenses, conduct enforcement checks and conduct investigations, and handle additional administrative actions; the required FTE includes the following:

- 12.9 FTE Criminal Investigator I to conduct the 12,960 required compliance checks; each FTE can complete 1,005 checks per year;
- 2.5 FTE Criminal Investigator II and 1.0 FTE Criminal Investigator I to oversee checks, conduct investigations, and determine any necessary sanctions;
- 1.5 FTE Administrative Assistant III, split between the LED and the Hearings Division, to process applications and assist with investigations;
- 1.5 FTE Legal Assistant II, split between the LED and Hearings Division, to assist with rulemaking, questions, documentation and enforcement actions;.
- 1.0 FTE Hearings Officer to conduct the additional hearings resulting from the bill.

In addition to the amounts above, in FY 2021-22, DOR requires 1.3 FTE Criminal Investigator I, 1.0 Hearing Officer, and 0.5 Analyst III to handle additional checks, hearings, and duties related to data management and tracking. Leased space costs are also included, on a per FTE rate. In addition, DOR requires \$126,279 per year for compensation to minors participating in compliance checks.

Legal services. DOR requires additional legal services to support rulemaking, and enforcement actions. Legal services are provided by the Department of Law. In FY 2020-21, 425 hours are required for rulemaking and general counsel, and 1,500 hours for administrative actions; these hours equate to \$205,205 and 1.1 FTE. In FY 2021-22, 3,345 hours are required for handling an assumed hearings for selling without a license, license denials, underage sales, and injunctive acts. This equates to \$356,577 and 1.9 FTE.

Fleet and equipment costs. Criminal investigators require equipment costs of \$5,777 in the first year and \$987 in subsequent years. In addition, the 17.0 FTE criminal investigators conducting compliance checks statewide will each require a fleet vehicle, provided by the Department of Personnel and Administration, at a leased cost of \$4,630 per year and \$7,160 per year in mileage and operations.

Computer programming. In FY 2020-21 only, DOR requires \$6,300 to make changes to GenTax and the MyLo licensing program. For MyLo, costs are estimated at 30 hours at a rate of \$150 per hour, for a total of \$4,500 in FY 2020-21 only. For GenTax, costs are estimated at 8 hours at the standard rate of \$225 per hour. There may also be costs to update the Colorado Interactive program, which is used by LED and local governments to coordinate compliance checks and enforcement actions. Costs for these changes are not estimated; any additional resources will be requested through the annual budget process.

Judicial Department. The bill allows the state to ask for injunctive relief prohibiting a person from committing acts prohibited by the bill. The fiscal note assumes that retailers will comply with the bill; as a result, any increase in cases will also be minimal. No change in appropriations is required. In addition, there may be minor changes to update the Judicial Department's case management system. This work is absorbable within current resources.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The bill may increase the workload for the Tobacco Education, Prevention, and Cessation program in the Prevention Services Division to provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions. Any increase is expected to be minimal.

TABOR refunds. The bill is expected to increase state General Fund obligations for TABOR refunds by \$3.9 million in FY 2020-21 and \$2.4 million in FY 2021-22. Under current law and the December 2019 Legislative Council Staff forecast, the bill will correspondingly increase the amount refunded to taxpayers via sales tax refunds made available on income tax returns for tax years 2021 and 2022, respectively. A forecast of state revenue subject to TABOR is not available beyond FY 2021-22.

Local Government

The bill increases revenue and expenditures for local licensing authorities who modify or adopt local licensing requirements as a result of the bill to implement new policies and to conduct and coordinate with LED on enforcement. The bill may also minimally impact the types of cases handled by district attorneys, as discussed above for the trial courts. Any change is expected to be minimal.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, and applies to offense on or after that date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires an appropriation of \$55,847 from the from the Liquor Enforcement Division Cash Fund to the Department of Revenue, and 0.5 FTE.

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$2,734,189 from the Liquor Enforcement Division Cash Fund to the Department of Revenue, and 20.4 FTE. Of that amount, \$205,205 and 1.1 FTE is reappropriated to the Department of Law and \$78,710 is reappropriated to the Department of Personnel and Administration.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Information Technology
Judicial	Law
Municipalities	Personnel
Public Health and Environment	Public Safety
Revenue	